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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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07/702,463

05/02/1991

MARTIN S. SMITH

DPC:3099(S)

7156

7590

03/03/2006

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EXAMINER

ISSING, GREGORY C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3662

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

07/702,463

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory C. Issing

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewin et al in view of Smith et al.

3. Lewin et al disclose a sea surface (buoyant) antenna comprising a tube of copper clad polythene forming a longitudinal slot 10 shorted at each end 12 (1:47-54). Tuning is obtained by the use of one or more varactor diodes 13 (1:57-58) distributed along the length of the slot 10 (1:116-120) and at substantially equal intervals along its length (5:64-67). The actual control of the varactors involves a small modulation signal on the varactor bias (1:63-85) and thus is variable. Lewin et al also teach that it is not mandatory to select a resonant length L equal to half the free-space wavelength and, thus, provide a suggestion of using other design choices regarding the length of the antenna. Lewin et al differ from the claimed subject matter since the slot is not specified as being coupled to a feed circuit at its midpoint.

Smith et al ("A UHF Buoyant Antenna"), cited in the applicants' specification shows a practical design in Figure 1(b) for a buoyant antenna having a slot along the length of a metallic tube wherein the slot is fed at about its mid-point to a feed circuit and the slot is bridged by a plurality of varactors so as to tune the antenna by varying the capacitance. As Smith et al is directed to a similarly designed buoyant antenna having a longitudinal slot, the choice of a feed design incorporating a center-fed slot would have been an obvious design modification in order to couple the feed signals to the slot in a conventional and practical manner. Smith et al also teach the fact that if the resonant frequency is less than the cut-off frequency, the waveguide operates via evanescent mode resonance, and if the resonant frequency is greater than the cut-off frequency, the waveguide operates via propagating mode resonance.

Applicant traverses the rejection on the grounds that the combined references do not teach the claimed antenna dimensioned so as to operate in an evanescent mode at a frequency less than cut-off. This argument is not convincing. Firstly, the claim language merely represents a desired operating

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characteristic in light of the fact that operating "in an evanescent mode" is identical to/defined by operation "at a resonant frequency less than the cut-off frequency." Secondly, Smith et al suggest operating in the evanescent mode. The difference between Lewin et al and Smith et al is minimal whereas Lewin et al was regarded the primary reference since both designs were similar but Lewin et al further taught pluralities of varactor diodes for tuning, while Smith et al further suggested the center-feed feature. Thus, the applicant's argument that the combination fails to teach the claimed antenna dimensioned so as to operate in an evanescent mode at a frequency less than cut-off is not convincing since the combination suggests operation of the sea surface buoyant antenna in an evanescent mode and therefore necessarily is dimensioned in such manner.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

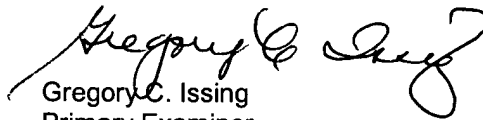
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory C. Issing whose telephone number is (571)-272-6973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:00 AM- 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Tarcza can be reached on (571)-272-6979. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gregory C. Issing
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3662

gci